

EXTRACT

d. Trip of von Berge to North Afr. I advised in response to the request he made recently while discussing the Klein-Dietz &c. matter, that it was impossible for us to obtain confirmation that von Berge flew from Frankfurt (Rhein-Main airport) to North Africa in 1953 unless he could supply at least the month, owing to the large number of manifests that would be involved in such a search. He said while he had had confirmation that the trip actually occurred, he did not have dates and in fact did not know whether von Berge left Germany by air or

other means. Pohl said he knew that the trip was financed by the Heimvolkshilfe Organisation with its HQ at Dusseldorf, which he said is sponsored by the German Foreign Office and the Waffen-SS. Pohl understands that von Berge is about to go to North Africa again (Cairo and Tangier) and that Beissner and Demmling, whom the British have confirmed are presently in Cairo, are coming to Bonn "next week" (Apr 18-22) to report.

Pohl went on to say that in view of the proposed Franco-German economic collaboration in the development of French North Africa, the French are naturally very interested in what the Germans are doing there, i.e., von Berge's trips, contacts with Beissner, etc. Pohl said that the US is less directly interested, but nevertheless is interested by virtue of having airfields in North Africa.

COMMENT: Mr. Hughes and I feel that the purpose of Mr. Pohl's sprawling remarks was to "fish" for information, particularly about North Africa.

MR From: C

Subject: Conversation with Mr. Leon Pohl, French L/O to the Br., 14 April 55

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